

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of notifying a user of the receipt of an email by a mail center, comprising transmitting a notification message in a broadcast signal, wherein the notification message comprises at least part of the text of the e-mail; and receiving a request for the notification message to be transmitted.
2. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, wherein the notification message is sent without any (direct) user prompt. *BS*
3. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, wherein the notification message includes an identifier of a receiver/decoder to which the notification message is to be sent.
4. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 3, wherein the receiver/decoder compares the identifier with an identifier which is stored at the receiver/decoder.

5. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 3, wherein the receiver/decoder has a smartcard number and the identifier comprises at least part of the smartcard number.

6. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, further comprising storing information relating to e-mail accounts, ~~preferably~~ at a central location.

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7. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 6, wherein information relating to e-mail accounts is linked to identifiers of receiver/decoders, and ~~preferably~~ wherein the information relating to e-mail accounts is linked to the smartcard numbers of receiver/decoders.

8. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 6, wherein the broadcast signal is part of a subscription service and information relating to e-mail accounts is linked to information relating to the subscription service.

9. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, wherein the notification message comprises an identifier of the recipient of the e-mail.

10. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, wherein the notification message comprises an identifier of the sender of the e-mail.

11. (Cancel)

BS 12. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, wherein the notification message is sent to a receiver/decoder.

13. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 12, wherein the receiver/decoder generates a signal for indicating to the user receipt of the e-mail by the mail centre.

14. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, further comprising storing preferences selected by the user.

15. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, further comprising notifying the user of a selected number of e-mails.

16. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, wherein the broadcast signal is a digital data stream.

17. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 16, wherein the notification message is sent as a section of the digital data stream.

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18. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 16, wherein the notification message is sent by way of an entitlement management message.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of notifying a user of the receipt of e-mail by a mail centre, which e-mail is to be transmitted to the user via a first medium, comprising transmitting a notification message, indicating the receipt of the e-mail by the mail centre, to the user via a second medium, different from the first medium, wherein at least part of the text of the e-mail is in the broadcast signal; and receiving a request for the notification message to be transmitted.

20. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 19, wherein the first medium is a switched medium and the second medium is a broadcast medium.

21. (Cancel)

22. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring email from a mail centre to a user, comprising transmitting at least part of the email in a broadcast signal; and receiving a request for the notification message to be transmitted.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating with a mail centre, comprising running an email application on a receiver/decoder; and receiving at least part of the text of an email in a broadcast signal by the receiver/decoder.

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24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus Apparatus for notifying a user of receipt of email by a mail center, comprising means for transmitting a notification message in a broadcast signal, wherein the notification message comprises at least part of the text of the e-mail; and means for receiving a request for the notification message to be transmitted.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the notification message includes an identifier of a receiver/decoder to which the notification message is to be sent.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 24, further comprising means for storing information relating to e-mail accounts.

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 26, wherein information relating to email accounts is linked to identifiers of receiver/decoders, and preferably wherein the information relating to email accounts is linked to the smartcard numbers of receiver/decoders.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the broadcast signal is part of a subscription service and information relating to e-mail accounts is linked to information relating to the subscription service.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the notification message comprises an identifier of the recipient of the e-mail.

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the notification message comprises an identifier of the sender of the e-mail.

31. (Cancel)

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 24, further comprising means for storing preferences selected by the user.

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the apparatus is adapted to notify the user of a selected number of e-mails.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the broadcast signal is a digital data stream.

35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the apparatus is adapted to send the notification message as a section of the digital data stream.

36. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the apparatus is adapted to send the notification by way of an entitlement management message.

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37. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 24,
wherein the apparatus is adapted to send at least part of the e-mail in the broadcast signal.

38. (Currently Amended) An apparatus Apparatus for transferring an e-mail from
a mail center to a user, comprising means for transmitting at least part of the text of the e-
mail in a broadcast signal; and means for receiving a request for the notification message
to be transmitted.

39. (Currently Amended) An apparatus Apparatus for notifying a user of the
receipt of e-mail by a mail center, which e-mail is to be transmitted to the user via a first
medium, comprising means for transmitting a notification message, indicating the receipt
of e-mail by the mail centre, to the user via a second medium, different from the first
medium; and means for transmitting at least part of the text of the e-mail in the broadcast
signal.

40. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 39, wherein
the first medium is a switched medium and the second medium is a broadcast medium.

41. (Currently Amended) A receiver/decoder for performing at least one of receiving and/or decoding a broadcast signal, comprising means for receiving, together with a broadcast signal, a notification message for notifying a user of the receipt of e-mail by a mail centre; and means for receiving at least part of the text of the e-mail in the broadcast signal.

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42. (Currently Amended) A-The receiver/decoder according to claim 41, wherein the receiver/decoder is adapted to compare an identifier in the notification message with an identifier which is stored at the receiver/decoder.

43. (Currently Amended) A-The receiver/decoder according to claim 41, wherein the receiver/decoder has a smartcard number and the identifier comprises at least part of the smartcard number.

44. (Currently Amended) A-The receiver/decoder according to claim 41, wherein the receiver/decoder generates a signal indicating the receipt of e-mail by the mail centre.

45. (Currently Amended) A The receiver/decoder according to claim 41, wherein the receiver/decoder generates a signal for displaying at least part of the notification message.

46. (Currently Amended) A receiver/decoder for receiving and/or decoding a broadcast signal, comprising means for receiving e-mail via a first medium and means for receiving a notification message, indicating the receipt of e-mail by the mail centre, via a second medium different from the first medium; and means for receiving at least part of the text of the e-mail in the broadcast signal.

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47. (Currently Amended) A The receiver/decoder according to claim 46, wherein the first medium is a switched medium and a second medium is a broadcast medium.

48. (Currently Amended) A system System for notifying a user of the receipt of e-mail comprising an apparatus for notifying a user of the receipt of e-mail by a mail centre and a receiver/decoder for receiving and/or decoding a broadcast signal;

the apparatus comprising means for transmitting a notification message in the broadcast signal and means for receiving a request for the notification message to be transmitted; and

the receiver/decoder comprising means for receiving, together with the broadcast
signal, a notification message for notifying the user of the receipt of e-mail by the mail
centre and means for receiving at least part of the text of the e-mail in the broadcast
signal.
